

People of the Pines

A Study Guide for Grades 3-5

Tribal Unity & Cultural Awareness Program



Presented by

San Manuel Band of Mission Indians

People of the Pines

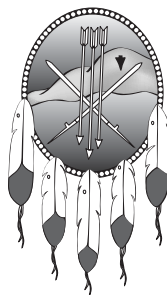


A Study Guide for Grades 3-5

Lesson 1

Many people contributed to this workbook and we thank each of them for their special gift in preserving Serrano history and culture.

We give special thanks to the efforts of Emeritus Professor Jack Norton; Emeritus Professor Ernest Siva; Professor Cliff Trafzer; Herbert R. Fischer, Ph.D., San Bernardino County Superintendent of Schools; Margaret (Peg) Hill, Ph.D., Office of the San Bernardino County Superintendent of Schools; and Dr. Art Delgado, Superintendent of the San Bernardino City Unified School District for their unwavering support and commitment.



San Manuel Band of Mission Indians

To the Teacher

We are pleased to share these materials with you and we hope your students enjoy and learn from the suggested activities and lesson problems. The workbook is designed to offer guidelines and encourage the excitement of learning. The questions are keyed to the textual information by corresponding pictures for quick reference.

Please encourage students to seek help from others and to share their efforts with those whom they trust and admire.

Tribal Unity and Cultural Awareness Program
San Manuel Band of Mission Indians
P.O. Box 266
Patton, CA 92369
909.864.8933

Discovering the Serrano

The young boys and girls living on the San Manuel Reservation in San Bernardino County have families just like other Southern Californians. They have cars, houses and play yards. They attend public schools and visit with family and friends on weekends and holidays. Parents are very concerned that their children are happy and successful students. The parents also want all children to know about the San Manuel Band of Mission Indians.



LIVING WITH THE LAND

The San Manuel people called themselves Yuhaviatam, or the People of the Pines. The people embraced the high country of whispering pines and flowing fresh waters. According to Santos Manuel, a leader of the Serrano people, and the creation story, the people cried when the Creator died. These people became pine trees and called themselves People of the Pines.

They lived and identified themselves within a large group of people that traded and respected other American Indian people. When the Spanish came into their lands in the 1700s, they called the Yuhaviatam "Serrano," which means mountaineer or highlander. The Spanish recognized the Serrano ties to the beautiful lands of the high country.



SERRANO NEIGHBORS

Many indian nations surround the Serrano people. To the north of the Yuhaviatam (Serrano Nation) lived the Kitanmule and Kawaiisu. To the east are the Chemehuevi and Southern Paiute. To the south are the Cahuilla and Luiseño, and to the west are the Gabrieleno and Tataviam. The Spanish forced Indians into the missions and others fled into the territory once held by the Serrano.



BOUNDARIES OF RESPECT

A nation is a group of people who share common customs, origins, and history. The people are sovereign and recognize the boundaries of other nations around them. A nation owns the land and resources of their territory. Boundaries permit nations to respect the needs and rights of their neighbors. California Indian nations respected their neighbors' boundaries and the plants, animals and foods gathered in their areas.



ORIGINAL LANDS OF THE SERRANO

Today, as yesterday, the heart of the Serrano homeland is the San Bernardino Mountains. Serrano lands reached out from the San Bernardino Mountains to the deserts and valleys surrounding the mountains. The valley lands include present-day Redlands, San Bernardino, Colton, Yucaipa, Mission Creek, Morongo Creek and Riverside. To the east, Serranos extended to Twenty-nine Palms. Serrano lands to the west included the Cucamonga Plain and south through Hemet and Moreno Valley.



SERRANO LANGUAGE

Linguists categorize the Serrano language as a Southern California Shoshonean language from the Uto-Aztecan language family. California Indians spoke dialects of seven different language families. The region supported the largest and most diverse American Indian population in the area north of Mexico.

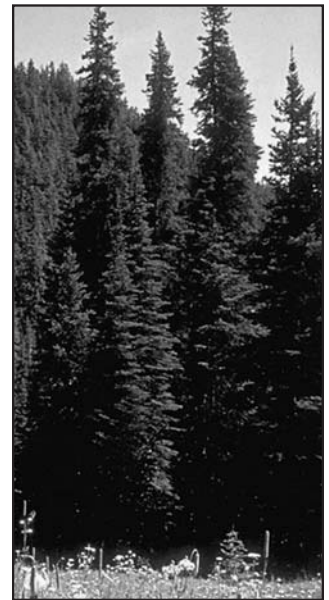


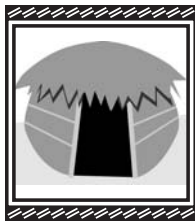
SERRANO WORLD

Serranos have a language that contains words carefully describing plants, animals and places.

Serranos have in-depth knowledge of their ancestral landscape. There are names for native foods and medicinal plants, artistic shapes, designs, ancient songs and stories. There are words for kinships and special knowledge.

The Serrano language and songs also describe proper behavior, social customs, creation stories and history. Many of these words represent the names of special places in the mountains. The songs used by the hunters described where to hunt deer, where to watch for bears and where to find the big-horned sheep. There were sacred songs to remind the hunters that if the natural systems were in order, the sheep would be there, and hunters would not come home empty-handed.





HOW THE SERRANO LIVED

Nature provided for the Serrano Indians. Families used logs, branches, tules and twine to construct their homes. The Serrano word for home is *kiich*. Their homes were dome-shaped and made of pole frames and thatched roofs. They did not live in tepees. These homes measured 12' to 14' across. Serranos lived in small villages near lakes, streams, springs and other water sources.

Serrano Indians gathered together near the central fire pit to keep warm throughout the winter. The pit was dug in the center of the home and was lined with stones. The people laid tule mats on the ground for added warmth. The tule mats also helped to soften the hard floor.

Serranos built storage places called granaries and sweathouses in their villages. The people stored nuts, fruits and vegetables, including acorns and mesquite beans, in granaries.

The sweathouse was a circular structure used by Serrano men, women and children. People cleansed their minds and bodies in the sweathouse. They cooled their bodies in nearby springs or streams.



Kiich



SONG, STORIES AND MUSIC

Music has always been an important part of Serrano culture and remains so today. Unlike some tribes, the California American Indians did not use drums for music. Instead the Serrano Indians gathered items from nature to make their musical instruments.

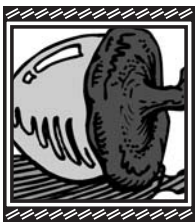
Serranos made holes in animal bones for whistles and flutes. By fastening two turtle shells together and placing wild cherry seeds inside, a ceremonial rattle was fashioned. Other rattles, such as those made from deer or bighorn sheep hooves, were used to accompany special songs. The gourd rattle was also used for ceremonial songs and bird songs. These gourd rattles contained palm seeds.

Serranos performed singing and dancing with musical instruments. Songs usually told about an event that took place shortly after the world was created. Even today,



Granary

Serranos sing ancestral songs using traditional instruments. The designs for these instruments have survived thousands of years. They hold on to an important part of their past through songs. Songs often tell stories that are the remembered past of the people.



LEGENDS AND SACRED STORIES

Serrano Indians used stories to teach about creation.

These stories are an important part of the Serrano culture and are passed from one generation to the next through storytelling. Storytelling is an important part of our culture today as we protect and preserve our past for future generations.

Pakúma (tribal leader Santos Manuel) told anthropologist John Harrington the following legend:

All the pines on top of the mountains (at Ató'aviyat, which is named for the creator's son, and other places) used to be people. They turned into pines when the Creator died. They all cried and, crying, turned into pines. Their bones scattered and became nuts and acorns. We who lived here at Yuhaviat -- the Yuhaviatam -- call ourselves "pine trees." We also call ourselves the Yuhaviatam, after the pine tree Yohats.



INVASION AND RESERVATION

Spanish soldiers invaded Serrano villages and moved some of the people to the missions. California Indians died from new diseases and a changes to their diet.

Catholic missionaries found the San Bernardino Valley rich with water, pastureland and trees. Spaniards, Mexicans and later, Americans, exploited Serrano labor. Indians did all the work in missions and lived like slaves. Serranos worked as "vaqueros" or cowboys on the ranchos. Settlers ranched, farmed and logged. Settlers also radically changed the environment and reduced Serrano lands.

In 1866 militia forces from San Bernardino killed Serrano men, women and children in a 32-day campaign. The army forced Indians from the mountains. Santos Manuel safely led the few surviving Serranos from their ancient homeland to live peacefully near the hot springs in San Bernardino. The Serrano people suffered a smallpox epidemic in 1862. A population that averaged between



3,500 and 7,000 in 1860 was reduced to between 150 and 200 by the early 1900s. Invasion, disease, and the mission system contributed to the decline of the Serrano population.

The Serrano leader, Santos Manuel, helped the people survive in the San Bernardino foothills. In 1891, the San Manuel Band of Mission Indians was recognized by the United States as a reservation and the Serrano Indians of San Manuel secured 640 acres. They had lost thousands of acres and many people, but they lived to face the 20th century.



REQUIREMENTS OF A SOVEREIGN NATION

Today the Serrano people of the San Manuel Reservation are a proud nation. They have their own language, boundaries, social customs, creation stories and history that prepares them for the future.

The San Manuel Band of Mission Indians is recognized as a sovereign nation with its own government and by-laws. Because of its sovereign status, the San Manuel Tribe has a government-to-government relationship with the United States and the

state of California. Serrano people have always had a democratic government of men and women.

Today the San Manuel general council is composed of adult tribal members who make decisions that affect the tribe. There is a five-member business committee, including a chairperson, who is elected from the general council. They are responsible for the day-to-day operation of the tribal government. Like San Manuel, the city of San Bernardino has an elected city council and mayor.

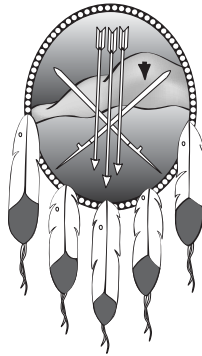
VALUES OF THE SERRANO PEOPLE TODAY

The boys and girls and their families living on the San Manuel Reservation have a special task to preserve their traditions and values. They respect the Earth and live well upon the lands of the whispering pines. They live in harmony with the land. They place the needs of their community before the needs of individuals. They respect the rights of their neighbors. They are thankful to their ancestors who gave so much, that they could continue their culture and existence today.



*Our past is the
foundation of
our future.*

Questions and Activities



LIVING WITH THE LAND

Fill in the blank.

Before the Spanish arrived, the San Manuel people called themselves *Yuhaviatam*, or the _____.

Select the best answer and write its letter in the beginning space.

_____ They used the name *Yuhaviatam* because a) they lived in the pine tree tops, b) the people became pine trees after the creator died, c) they cut down the pines for lumber to sell, d) they were tall and sturdy like pine trees.

Fill in the blank.

The Spanish called the *Yuhaviatam*, _____, which means “Mountaineer” in the Spanish language.

Select the best answer and write its letter in the beginning space.

_____ The Spanish used the word *Serrano* to describe the *Yuhaviatam* because a) the Indians could run in the mountains very fast, b) the Indians liked to surround the missions c) the Indians lived in the beautiful lands of the high country and mountains, d) the Indians wanted to be called sirs.



MAP OF CALIFORNIA INDIAN NATIONS



MAP OF SERRANO NEIGHBORS



On this page, locate the Serrano lands and color it blue.



SERRANO NEIGHBORS

Using the map on the previous page, fill in the blanks below.

The native nations living north of the Serrano are:

_____ and _____

Color them red.

The native nations living south of the Serrano are:

_____ and _____

Color them yellow.

The native nations living east of the Serrano are:

_____ and _____

Color them green.

The native nations living west of the Serrano are:

_____ and _____

Color them purple.

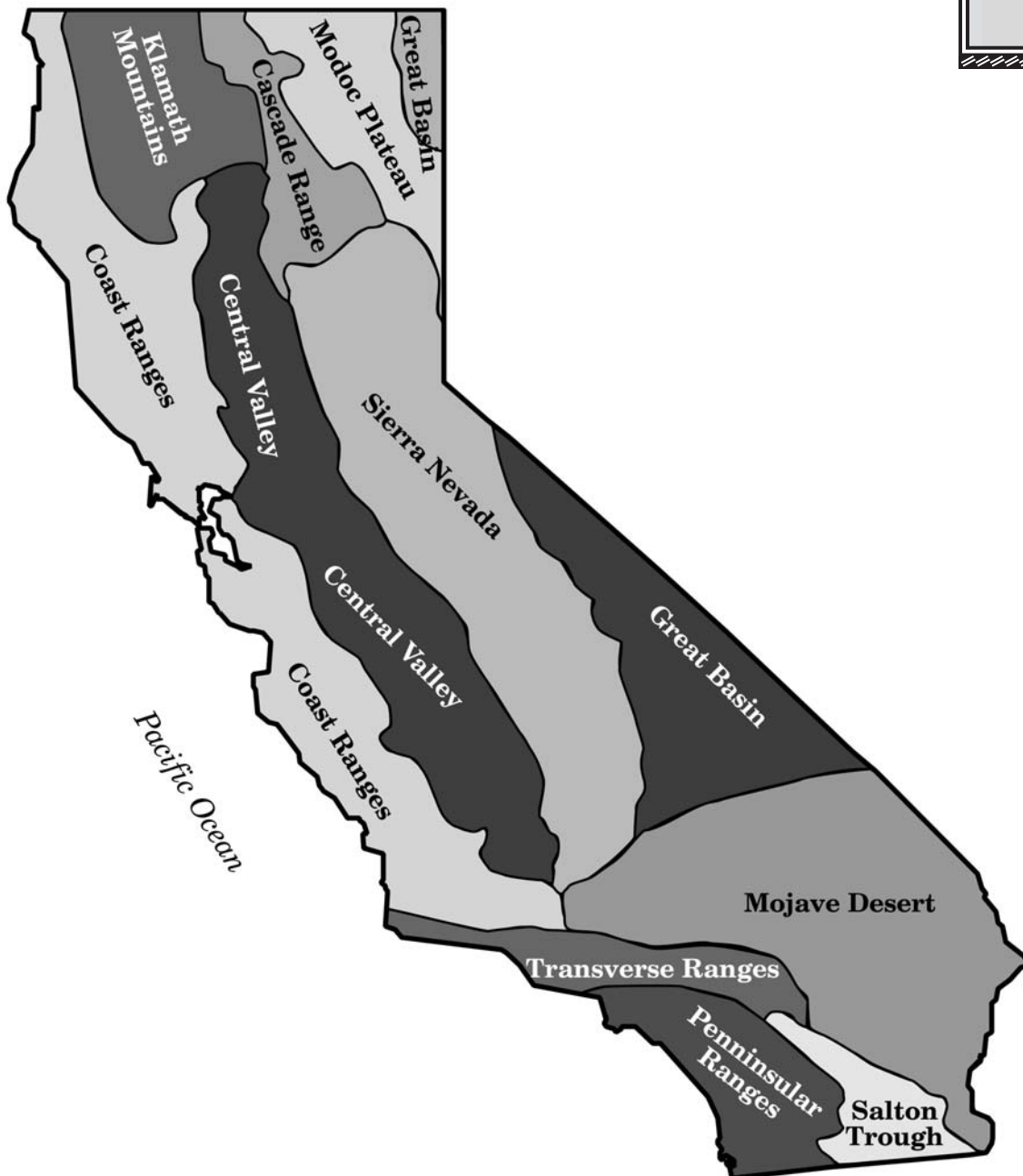
Circle the appropriate response.

How many Indian nations are there in California according to the map?

25 32 40 62 80



MAP OF CALIFORNIA GEOGRAPHIC REGIONS

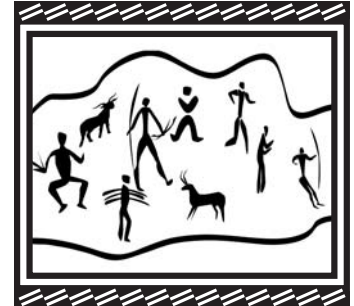


SAN MANUEL BAND OF MISSION INDIANS

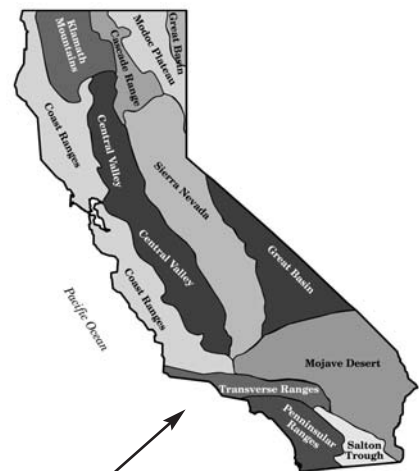
BOUNDARIES OF RESPECT

Mountains, rivers, deserts, lakes and mountain ridges usually formed the boundaries between Indian nations. Natural barriers or other agreed upon geographical formations divided the nations geographically.

Using the maps on the previous pages and the one below, can you identify the natural boundaries of other nations?



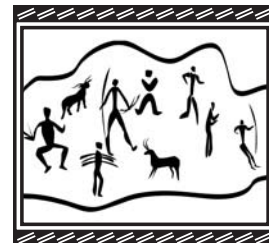
MAP OF SERRANO TERRITORY AND NEIGHBORING NATIONS



PEOPLE OF THE PINES

Imagine if you were traveling through California before the arrival of European explorers. Tell or write a story about your trip across the boundaries of several nations.

What would you expect to see? How would you show respect to the other people?

[illegible]

————— SAN MANUEL BAND OF MISSION INDIANS —————

ORIGINAL LANDS OF THE SERRANO

Circle the places that you have visited in the original Serrano homelands.

San Bernardino Mountain area, Big Bear, Redlands, San Bernardino City, Colton, Yucaipa, Mission Creek, Morongo Creek, San Gorgonio Park, Hemet and Moreno Valley.



Can you locate the San Bernardino Mountains?

The San Gabriel Mountains?

Interstate Highway 10?

Ask an adult to describe and locate a geographical area they have visited in California.

LANGUAGES OF CALIFORNIA

Fill in the blanks below.

Serrano people speak a language categorized as _____.

There are _____ major categories of Languages in California.

For Extra Credit!!

Many Indians in California know more than one language. Why would it be useful for a young person like you to know more than one language?



SERRANO WORLD

Questions for discussion or essays.

Imagine you are a Serrano hunter. How would you know where to hunt?

How would you know where to find deer?

Write a sentence about what the Serrano language and songs describe.

Serrano Numbers

One - *hoopk*

Two - *worh'*

Three - *paahi'*

Four - *wachah*

Five - *mahartc*

Six - *pavorhi'*

Seven - *wachkowik*

Eight - *wawch*

Nine - *mukovik*

Ten - *wahmahatc*



HOW THE SERRANO LIVED

Questions for discussion or essays.

Draw a picture of what a Serrano house looked like or write a story about a Serrano family building and living in their house long ago. Describe what materials were used in building their homes.

Write a sentence about why the Serranos used sweathouses.

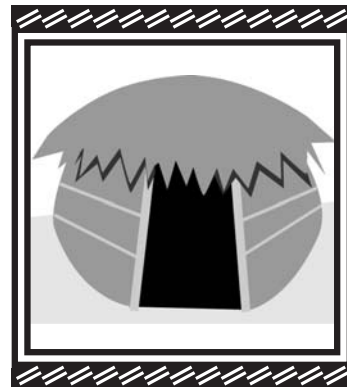
Imagine a child living in a Serrano village. Tell us what the Serrano mothers and grandmothers might be doing. What would the Serrano children be doing?

What Serrano foods were kept in the granaries or the storage place? Some were nuts and vegetables, including _____ and _____.



Kiich

The Serrano constructed their homes within a cleared area. The homes usually measured between 12 and 14 feet across. Using yucca fiber or rawhide thongs, the tules were tied to a pole framework that created the dome-shaped house.



Tule



Sweathouse

TELLING STORIES THROUGH SONG

Questions for discussion or essays.

What type of musical instruments did Serranos make?

What were the Serrano songs usually about?

TRUE or FALSE

Traditional Serrano songs and Cahuilla bird songs are still taught by tribal elders to members of the San Manuel Band of Mission Indians.

Describe the musical instruments used by Serrano singers.



San Manuel singers

LEGENDS AND SACRED STORIES

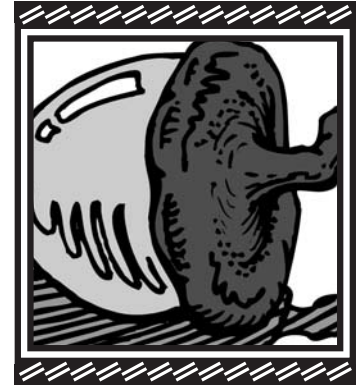
Questions for discussion or essays.

Place students in a circle and have them take turns reading the story "The Mourning Dove" out loud. Then answer the following questions either as a group or individually.

Have you ever heard a mourning dove cry? Where? What does their cry remind you of? What type of environment does the mourning dove require?

In some parts of Southern California today, mourning doves will make their nests and lay eggs in hanging planters or in the garden area of home improvement centers. Why do you think the doves do this?

Tell others about your thoughts and experiences with the mourning dove, or better yet, write your own story about it to share with classmates and friends.



THE MOURNING DOVE

The mourning dove is also called makarht, or the wild dove. When the dove was younger, she would rise early with her mother and father. But instead of capturing her own food, she would wait for her parents and cry A-who-who-who until food arrived. Soon, her parents grew tired of her crying for food all the time and flew away. Now, the mourning dove cries A-who-who-who for her parents. No matter how much she searches, she will never find them. The Serranos believe that a crying dove is like an Indian without a tribe or a man without a country.

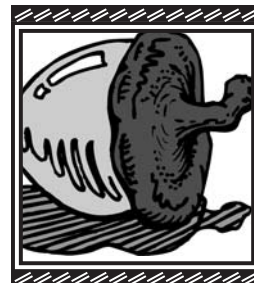
PEOPLE OF THE PINES

For Extra Credit!!

Here are more important questions about the story, "The Mourning Dove." It is okay to ask for help!

What proper behaviors are taught to the Serrano through the story of "The Mourning Dove?" Tell your teacher or write down an explanation.

What social customs (responsible ways of acting toward others) are found in the "The Mourning Dove" story?



Here is an additional story to read called "The Legend of White Eagle."

According to an ancient story, a pure White Eagle led the Serrano Indians to safety, south to the San Bernardino Mountains. It is believed that White Eagles are immortal, like Mother Earth, never meant to die.

The story, "The Legend of White Eagle," is a creation story and part of Serrano history. Creation stories are special stories that explain the origin or beginning of a group or people.

In a sharing circle or in a written response, discuss the reasons you think eagles are used by so many cultures as symbols of nationhood (for example, the United States and Mexico). Can you think of other ways the image of the eagle is used?

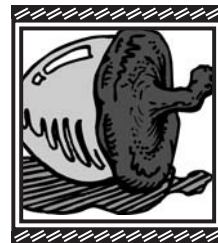
Students may go the library or on the Internet to find pictures of eagles and stories to share with the class.

PEOPLE OF THE PINES

Further questions for discussion or essays.

Why is the color white often associated with special events, such as white rabbits or white wedding gowns?

Find other examples where white is used with special events or buildings or places. Use books from the library or search on the Internet. Share them in class.



For Extra Credit!!

Why do Serrano people use the term and symbol of Mother Earth? Do other people around the world use this term? Why do Serrano people value the gifts of Mother Earth?

Find several examples of Mother Earth in storybooks, poems or songs. You may also write your own story about the many gifts given to people by Mother Earth. Share with a teacher or trusted elder your ideas about the importance of the Earth.

INVASION AND RESERVATION

Circle the correct year.

When did settlers drive Serrano people from the San Bernardino Mountains into the foothills near the present-day San Manuel Indian Reservation?

1840 1850 1866 1877 1885

Circle the year that the San Manuel Reservation was established.

1848 1852 1870 1891 1901

Fill in the blank.

The San Manuel Band of Mission Indians is named after _____ Manuel.



REQUIREMENTS OF A SOVEREIGN NATION

Questions for discussion or essays.

Tell us about the San Manuel tribe being a sovereign nation.

Why are they sovereign?

Why would being sovereign be important to you?

Describe how the San Manuel people made decisions.

Imagine that you are an elected member of the San Manuel government. Describe some of your responsibilities.



VALUES OF THE SERRANO PEOPLE TODAY

Questions for discussion or essays.

Tell your teacher or parents about your ideas or write an essay to share about the following:

How do the young boys and girls live on the San Manuel Reservation today? How are their lives like or unlike other young people living in Southern California?



Congratulations!

You have finished and understood some important information about the Serrano people.

Please have your parents or a respected elder sign below, indicating that you have shared important information about the people of the San Manuel Indian Reservation.

Thank you for participating in this important project.
